

# The Man Who Went to Cuba For the FBI

By ROBERT S. BOYD

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— What kind of a man does it take to live a lie for nine months as an undercover agent for the FBI and the CIA?

Ask Barry Hoffman, the slim, curly-haired young Bostonian who posed as an American student on a Cuban-financed junket to Cuba this summer.

Hoffman blew the whistle on 58 of the visitors to Cuba at a violence-marred hearing before the House Un-American Activities Committee yesterday.

## Abused at Hearing

Afterwards he had to endure the hoots and jeers of the students who labeled him a "mercenary", a "fink" and worse.

Hoffman is 26, intense, bespectacled and unafraid. He lives at home in suburban Brookline, Mass., with his parents.

The son of a druggist, he has a college degree in pharmacy, but never practiced it. He sold appliances and was in the real estate business in Boston.

For some time, Hoffman had been helping Gordon Hall, a writer on communism, fascism and other "isms." One of his jobs for Hall was to clip items of significance from the papers.

One day last fall, Hoffman spotted an advertisement for an all-expense paid student trip to Cuba. He and Hall talked it over and decided to investigate further.

## Visited FBI, CIA

Meanwhile, he and Hall visited the FBI and the CIA. "We didn't want them to misunderstand our motives," he said.

Later, when Hoffman was accepted as a member of the student group, he made arrangements to "cooperate" with the government agencies.

The tour led to a series of lookouts for FBI buildings. Hoffman said. He said that the trip that he and Hall took was a "fink poll."

"I was pretty uncomfortable for times. I had to go along with a lot of the stuff, but I just couldn't sing the Communist Internationale. It was terrible to hear the things they said about America."

## "Fink Poll"

Philip Luce, one of the trip leaders, said yesterday, "We didn't know it was Barry, but we thought it might be. He was at the top of our fink poll."

Hoffman says he thinks the students may have legitimate Constitutional grounds to challenge the government's ban on travel to Cuba.

"But this isn't the way to challenge it. They could picket or demonstrate or collect petitions or write their Congressmen. Instead, they caused a great deal of harm for their country."